

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Presently Amended) ~~An apparatus for cutting masonry, ceramic tile and other mineral-containing articles, each of the articles to be cut having a longitudinal axis and a transverse axis, the apparatus~~ A cutting apparatus comprising:

- (a) a stationary table defining a planar surface for supporting and positioning said an article to be cut;
- (b) a blade support structure projecting from said table, said support structure having a cutting arm extending therefrom, said cutting arm pivotable about said support structure and capable of being moved in an arcuate cutting motion between an initial position away from said table and a cutting position toward said table; and
- (c) a rotatable blade mounted on said cutting arm; ~~and, said blade having a diameter greater than a length of a longitudinal dimension of said article, said blade capable of cutting said article into two pieces along said article's longitudinal axis in a single arcuate motion~~
- (d) a dust collection fitting secured to the table such that the fitting is in line to receive cutting waste produced during a cutting operation.

2. (Presently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a motor for rotatably driving said blade, wherein said motor is secured to said cutting arm such that said motor is parallel to said table.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Presently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, furthering comprising a guard member extending over an upper a portion of said blade.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said guard member further acts as a dust deflector capable of directing cutting wastes to at least one of generally parallel to said table and generally tangential to said blade.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said guard member provides at least 181 degrees of coverage of said rotatable blade.

7. (Presently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, ~~furthering comprising an exhaust fitting for~~ wherein said fitting is configured to receive a vacuum pump, and wherein said fitting when equipped with said vacuum pump exhausts air in a stream generally toward said fitting generally parallel to said table.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said cutting arm is arc shaped.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said cutting arm is elliptically arc shaped.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said blade, secured to said cutting arm, pivots on said blade support structure such that said blade cuts said-article from a top of said article down through an entire bottom of said article.

14. (Presently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a cavity in said table for receiving a bottom portion ~~edge portions~~ of said blade, wherein said cavity allows said bottom portion to pass through said table.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a backstop removably secured to said table to stabilize said article during contact with said blade.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said support structure comprises two angled elements, said angled elements both having a first end and a second end,

where said first ends are connected by a first rod and said second ends are connected by a second rod.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein at least one of said rods is cylindrical.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein at least one of said rods is a tube.

19. (Presently Amended) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said cutting arm pivots on support structure as defined by one of said rodstubes.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said blade support structure and said cutting arm poise said blade so as to maintain perpendicularity of said blade to said table.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said blade support structure projects upwardly from said table.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a leverage arm extending from said cutting arm.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Presently Amended) An apparatus for deflecting dust from a cutting element, said apparatus comprising a guard member capable of generally encasing an upper portion of a rotatable blade, said guard member shaped to deflect cutting waste to an exhaust fitting secured to a stationary table, said exhaust fitting having a funnel shape such that said fitting and said guard member overlap upon urging said rotatable blade into a cutting motion.

26. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the fitting is removably secured to the table.

27. (New) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said guard member deflects cutting waste to said fitting, and wherein said fitting and said guard member overlap upon urging said rotatable blade into a cutting motion.

28. (New) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said fitting is secured to said table behind said guard member.

29. (New) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said fitting is secured to said table behind said cavity along an axis where cutting occurs.

30. (New) A cutting apparatus comprising:

- (a) a stationary table defining a planar surface for supporting an article to be cut;
- (b) a blade support structure projecting from said table, said support structure having a cutting arm extending therefrom, said cutting arm pivotable about said support structure and capable of being moved in a cutting motion between an initial position away from said table and a cutting position toward said table;
- (c) a rotatable blade mounted on said cutting arm;
- (d) a guard member extending over a portion of said blade;
- (e) a dust collection fitting secured to said table such that the fitting is in line to receive cutting waste produced during a cutting operation, wherein said fitting is secured to said table behind said guard member, wherein said guard member deflects cutting waste to said fitting, and wherein said fitting and said guard member overlap upon urging said blade into a cutting motion;
- (f) a cavity in said table for receiving a bottom portion of said blade, wherein said cavity allows said bottom portion to pass through said table, and wherein said fitting is secured to said table behind said cavity along an axis where cutting occurs; and
- (g) a backstop removably secured to said table, said backstop configured to stabilize said article during contact with said blade.